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Forest Service News



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Effort Launched to Help Employment

The lumber and plywood markets are depressed and causing widespread unemployment or reduced employment in the wood products industry. At the same time there is a very strong market for chips and for fuel wood.

Because of the situation, the USDA-Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, is studying ways to make more wood residues available in locations where they are needed to sustain wood product plant operations, according to R. E. Worthington, Regional Forester.

The Forest Service has asked members of the timber industry in the Pacific Northwest to comment on ways the agency, one of the main sources of timber, can help alleviate the unemployment situation and indicate geographic areas where residues are most needed to meet manufacturing demands. Wood residues and some trees are chipped for use in making paper and building materials.

A five-person Forest Service committee working on the problem will soon report to him, Worthington said, and he hopes to implement action plans by the end of May.

(more)

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Possibilities being explored are: Disposal of large amounts of wood residue that under normal conditions are burned or left to rot because of no market; significantly increase the opportunity for salvage in tree thinning contracts; increase the number of tree thinning contracts in stands of smaller timber suitable for chipping; substantially expand salvage and use of dead, dying, and insect-infested or disease-damaged timber.

Worthington said he has told his people "our response to this situation needs to be positive, significant in size and scope, effectively designed and implemented, and (most importantly) timely."

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Distribution: Full.

